



**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
PUBLIC HEALTH MICROBIOLOGIST SPECIALIST (VIROLOGY)**

**Open Examination**

**Final Filing Date: March 18, 2014**

**Bulletin Release Date: February 18, 2014**

SW34 -7939

4H106



California State Government supports equal opportunity to all regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, marital status, disability, religious or political affiliation, age, or sexual orientation. It is an objective of the State of California to achieve a drug-free work place. Any applicant for state employment will be expected to behave in accordance with this objective because the use of illegal drugs is inconsistent with the law of the state, the rules governing civil service, and the special trust placed in public servants.

**EXAMINATION TYPE:** This is an open examination. Applications for this examination will not be accepted on a promotional basis. Career credits will not be granted.

**WHO SHOULD APPLY:** Persons who meet the minimum qualifications (entrance requirements) as stated on this announcement may take this examination, which is competitive.

**HOW TO APPLY:** Applications (STD. 678) and Supplemental Applications (page four) must be submitted via the U.S. Postal Service or hand delivered to the California Department of Public Health Human Resources Office (hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM). Standard State Applications (STD. 678) can be found at: <http://jobs.ca.gov/pdf/std678.pdf>. Submit hard copies to:

**Mailing Address:**

**California Department of Public Health  
Selection & Certification Unit  
MS 1700-1702  
P.O. Box 997378  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7378**

**File in Person Address:**

**California Department of Public Health  
Selection & Certification Unit  
1501 Capitol Avenue, Suite 71.1501  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Telephone: (916) 319-9759**

**DO NOT SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO THE STATE PERSONNEL BOARD OR THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES. ALSO, THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH WILL NOT ACCEPT APPLICATIONS SENT ONLINE, VIA INTER-AGENCY MAIL OR FAX.**

**FINAL FILING DATE:** Applications (STD. 678) and Supplemental Applications must be submitted by **March 18, 2014**, the final filing date. Applications postmarked or personally delivered after the filing deadline will not be accepted.

**SALARY RANGES:** \$ 5133.00 - 6915.00 per month.

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:** In addition to the salary above the California Department of Public Health offers benefits in the following areas:

- Health, Dental, and Vision
- Cash Benefit Programs
- Disability Insurance
- Work, Home, and Family
- Beneficiary and Survivor Benefits
- Awards
- Retirement and Separation Benefits
- Flexible Schedules
- Public Transit Reimbursement (limits apply)

A complete list of all benefits may be viewed at <http://www.calhr.ca.gov/employees/Pages/salary-and-benefits.aspx>

**POSITION DESCRIPTION:** This is the technical expert of the series. Under general direction, organizes and performs the more advanced, complex, or innovative virologic analyses requiring independence of action and judgment. With the use of sophisticated laboratory instrumentation and/or advanced techniques, solves unusual scientific problems referred to a reference laboratory, develops innovative methods; originates and evaluates experimental methods; makes interpretive analyses of data obtained; serves as the expert in his/her specialty area of virology (immunoserology, viral isolation and identification, AIDS virology, electron microscopy, and viral pathogenesis, zoonotic and vector-borne diseases) and provides highly technical consultations and expert testimony in the area of specialty; and does other related work.

Positions exist with the California Department of Public Health in Richmond, CA in Contra Costa County.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMITTANCE TO THE EXAMINATION:** It is your responsibility to make sure you meet the education and/or experience requirements stated on this announcement by **March 18, 2014**, the final filing date. Your signature on your application indicates that you have read, understood, and possess the basic qualifications required.

NOTE: Applications/resumes **must** include "to" and "from" dates (month/day/year), time base, civil service class title(s), and range (if applicable) for all work experience. College course information **must** include title, number of semester or quarter units, name of institution, completion dates, and degree (if applicable).

**Applications/resumes received without this information will be rejected. A copy of your official degree and transcripts may assist in the evaluation of your qualifications as it relates to meeting the education requirements for this examination.**

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Qualifying experience may be combined on a proportionate basis if the following requirements include more than one pattern and are distinguished as either I, or II, or III, etc.

Possession of a valid Public Health Microbiologist's certificate issued by the California State Department of Health Services (California Department of Public Health). (Applicants who do not possess the required certificate but who are eligible for the examination for certification will be admitted to the examination, but they must secure the certificate before they will be considered eligible for appointment.) **and**

**Either I**

**Experience:** Two years of experience performing the duties of a Public Health Microbiologist II (Virology) in the State Department of Health Services (California Department of Public Health).

**Or II**

**Experience:** Four years of increasingly responsible experience performing a specialty area of microbiology (i.e., Bacteriology, Virology, Mycology, Parasitology, or Immunology) analyses in a public health or comparable laboratory including at least two years of virologic experience. [A Master's Degree or higher degree in Medical Microbiology or Public Health with emphasis in virology or allied disciplines (e.g., microbiology, epidemiology, administration, biostatistics) may be substituted for one year of experience.]

**GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:** In addition to the scope defined on this announcement, candidates must possess essential personal qualifications including integrity, initiative, dependability, good judgment, ability to work cooperatively with others, and a state of health consistent with the ability to perform the assigned duties of the class. A medical examination may be required.

**EXAMINATION INFORMATION:** The examination will consist of a Supplemental Application that is weighted 100%. Applicants are required to respond to the following **five** supplemental items. These supplemental items are designed to identify job achievement in specific areas that demonstrates ability to successfully perform at the Public Health Microbiologist Specialist (Virology) level. Responses to the supplemental items will be assessed based on predetermined job-related rating criteria. In appraising the relative qualifications of candidates, consideration will be given to the extent and type of pertinent experience and education over and above that required under the minimum qualifications.

The California Department of Public Health reserves the right to revise the examination plan to better meet the needs of the service if the circumstances under which this examination was planned change. Such revision will be in accordance with civil service law and rules and all competitors will be notified.

**EXAMINATION SCOPE:** In addition to evaluating the candidate's relative abilities as demonstrated by quality and breadth of experience, emphasis will be placed on measuring, relative to job demands, each competitor's:

**KNOWLEDGE OF:**

1. Serological, immunological, virological, rickettsial and molecular identification and characterization methods and how to perform them in order to conduct laboratory analysis for the detection of infectious disease agents.
2. Virological and rickettsial pathogens with clinical and public health significance for the detection and identification of human, zoonotic and vector- borne pathogens.
3. Methods of disease transmission and epidemiological principles to select proper specimens for testing.
4. Basic mathematical and statistical methods for data analysis of testing results and quality parameters.
5. Scientific terminology and notation to apply quantitative methods and communicate with other scientists and physicians in a common language.

6. Quality control and quality assurance principles and regulations, as well as their application to laboratory operations and record keeping in accordance with state and federal regulations.
7. The use, maintenance and principle of operations of laboratory equipment used for analytical testing and environmental control to assure proper operation and valid laboratory results.
8. Laboratory safety regulations, principles and procedures for the identification and control of chemical and biological hazards routinely encountered in the public health laboratory.
9. Laboratory resource materials, including current literature, scientific research methods and principles of project management to maintain and improve laboratory operations and for preparation of materials for publication.
10. Disease progression in the human host for the selection and timing of proper specimen collection and testing.
11. Patient confidentiality principles and information security practices as required by laboratory policy state and federal regulation.
12. Basic chemistry, microscopy, immunological, and molecular principles in order to understand and perform standardized laboratory assays and develop new testing methods.
13. Serological, immunological, virological, rickettsial and molecular identification and characterization methods and how to perform them in order to conduct laboratory analysis for the detection of infectious disease agents.
14. Virological and rickettsial pathogens with clinical and public health significance for the detection and identification of human, zoonotic and vector- borne pathogens.

#### **ABILITY TO:**

1. Work on multiple projects and assignments simultaneously under pressure from timelines, while maintaining appropriate priorities.
2. Adapt to changes and priorities of work assignments and policies which may impact courses of action for completion of projects and assignments.
3. Communicate verbally in a clear and effective manner with departmental staff and state and local agencies when providing consultation and technical guidance.
4. Interact and collaborate with staff of various job descriptions and backgrounds in order to foster team building and cooperation.
5. Negotiate a difficult situation to a resolution.
6. Perform varied microbiological laboratory tests efficiently and safely.
7. Maintain, organize, and keep laboratory records.
8. Clearly communicate complex concepts to other scientists for consultation or training.
9. Problem solve and troubleshoot when problems occur in the laboratory.
10. Follow written or verbal direction to complete laboratory tasks and assignments, ensure safety, and accomplish laboratory goals and policies.
11. Maintain confidentiality of sensitive issues, including patient and employee information.
12. Critically review scientific literature and assess its potential applications.
13. Represent the department in a professional manner in interaction with the public, scientific community, and legal proceedings.
14. Present findings effectively for various audiences.
15. Work as part of a team, remaining attentive to ideas, recognizing responsibilities, and actively participating with others to accomplish assignments.
16. Work independently to complete laboratory work, shift priorities and meet deadlines.
17. Operate, implement and troubleshoot complex office and laboratory equipment, such as computers, office business machines, microscopes, centrifuges, and balances.
18. Organize, design, and provide effective training curriculum for various participants.
19. Act in a lead capacity, analyze problems with personnel in the laboratory and take appropriate action according to established personnel management policies.

**SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION:** Each applicant for this examination **must** complete and submit responses to the **five** supplemental items that follow. Answer questions independently and completely; incomplete responses and omitted information cannot be considered or assumed. Resumes, letters of reference, and other materials will not be evaluated or considered as responses to items in the supplemental application. **YOUR RESPONSES ARE SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION** and should be an accurate reflection of your personal experience.

Applications received without responses to the supplemental items will be rejected.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** When responding to the supplemental items, please follow these guidelines:

- Your responses must be typewritten or generated by word processing on 8½" X 11" paper.
- Your font should be typed in 12 pt., Arial font.

- Your responses must be limited to one page per item.
- Identify each page with your full name.
- Make sure your responses are complete, specific, clear, and concise.
- Answer each numbered item separately, indicating the corresponding item number for each response. (You may include multiple responses on a single page.)
- Include place of employment, pertinent dates, duties performed, examples, etc., when responding to items.
- In the event that one particular job contained responsibilities applicable to several items, separate the different functions of the job in order to respond to all items completely.
- Please return your state application (678), two copies of the Supplemental Items and the Conditions of Employment (631) to the address listed on the front of the bulletin.

NOTE: Resumes, letters, and other materials will not be evaluated or considered as responses to the supplemental items.

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### SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION ITEMS

1. Describe your personal knowledge of and experience with validating a new assay for diagnostic testing.
2. Describe your personal knowledge of and experience with investigating a proficiency test sample result that does not match the intended response.
3. Describe how you should create and present a one day workshop to local public health microbiologist to train them to perform a new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) assay.
4. Describe your personal knowledge of and experience with working at different biosafety levels.
5. It has come to your attention that in the last few weeks the positive control for an assay has been reacting with increasing weakness compared to its normal range. Describe how you should determine if there is a problem with this assay.

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**I hereby certify and understand that the information provided by me in this supplemental application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and contains no willful misrepresentation or falsification. I further understand that this information may be verified and that, if it is discovered I have made any false representations, I will be removed from the Departmental open list resulting from this examination, and possibly dismissed from civil service.**

**DISCLOSURE OF SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION RESPONSES TO OTHER COMPETITORS IS PROHIBITED AND MAY LEAD TO DISQUALIFICATION IF DISCOVERED.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Return this page with your original signature along with your Supplemental Application.**

Please ensure that your return envelope has adequate postage. Facsimiles (FAX) or electronic versions (email) will not be accepted under any circumstance.

**ELIGIBLE LIST INFORMATION:** Possession of the entrance requirements does not assure a place on the eligible list. In order to obtain a position on the eligible list, a minimum rating of 70% must be attained. A departmental open list will be established for use by the department(s) listed on this announcement. The list will expire 24 months after it is established unless the needs of the service and conditions of the list warrant a change in this period.

Eligible lists established by competitive examination, regardless of date, must be used in the following order: 1) sub-divisional promotional, 2) departmental promotional, 3) multi-departmental promotional, 4) service-wide promotional, 5) departmental open, and 6) open. When there are two lists of the same kind, the older must be used first.

**VETERANS PREFERENCE:** Effective January 1, 2014, Veterans' Preference will be awarded to qualifying Veterans who are successful in the examination in the form of Rank placement rather than points. All individuals awarded Veterans' Preference will be certified in the top rank of the eligibility list, regardless of score. All Open Exams/Eligible lists will award Veterans' Preference, regardless of the classification.

TDD is Telecommunications Device for the Deaf and is reachable only from phones equipped with a TDD device.

The California Relay (Telephone) Service for the deaf or hearing impaired:

MCI from TDD: 1-800-735-2929      MCI from voice telephone: 1-800-735-2922

Sprint from TDD: 1-888-877-5378      Sprint from voice telephone: 1-888-877-5379

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**CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT (631)**

Title: Public Health Microbiologist Specialist (Virology)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print: first, middle initial, last)

FFD: March 18, 2014

If you are successful in your examination your name will be placed on the active employment list and certified to fill vacancies according to the conditions you specify on this form. If you are unwilling to accept work or do not reply promptly to communications your name will be placed on the inactive list.

**Locations in which you are willing to work:**

\_\_\_\_\_ 0700 Contra Costa

**TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT DESIRED:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Permanent                      \_\_\_\_\_ Limited Term  
\_\_\_\_\_ Part Time (regular hours less than 40)

\_\_\_\_\_ Full Time  
\_\_\_\_\_ Intermittent (on call)

It is your responsibility to notify the Department of Public Health, Examination Unit, of any changes in your address or availability for employment. All correspondence must include your examination title, identification number and Social Security number.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this page with your original signature along with your Supplemental Application.**